

## Palestinian 'informer' killed

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian activists in the occupied West Bank killed a suspected Arab informant for Israel Friday as residents of the Gaza Strip observed a general strike. Palestinians said Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip shot and wounded four Arab youths — the youngest seven years old — in scattered clashes Friday, hospital staff reported. Misted activists from the Black Panthers killed Suleyman Faris village, near Nablus, claiming responsibility for the slaying early Friday of Mohammed Mustafa Kadoura, 25. They said he had confessed to working for Israeli forces during interrogation by activists three days ago. An Israeli army spokesman said police were investigating. In Gaza, Palestinians observed a general strike in response to a call by the fundamentalist Islamic Jihad to show support for an attack on an Israeli bus in Egypt Feb. 4 in which nine Israelis and two Egyptians were killed. The group has claimed responsibility for the attack near Cairo. Palestinians said it was the second strike in a month called by Jihad despite Israeli claims to have arrested the group.

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## Lithuanians mark 'national day'

MOSCOW (R) — Lithuanians staged mass rallies on Friday in a new sporting of national feeling to mark the 1918 founding of the short-lived independent Lithuania state. Ceremonies were held throughout the republic and national red-yellow-green tricolours flew in the capital, Vilnius. In Tbilisi, in Central Asia, senior Communist Party officials gathered for the second consecutive day to decide the fate of its leaders who have agreed to resign after rioting which has killed at least 18 people this week. But a local journalist, speaking by telephone from the republic's capital Druskiene, said the meeting had rejected an offer to resign from the Taif party chief Kukhar Makhatian. In Moscow, the national parliament put off a vote on a key bill to legalize private property, saying more time was needed to examine amendments. The bill is a key plank in Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reform programme. Lithuanian journalists said the ceremonies, which would have been unthinkable before Gorbachev began his liberal reforms, had begun. Protest focused on young people refusing service in the Soviet army. Many protesters consider it an occupation force, sent by Stalin in 1940 to crush independent Lithuania.

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

## EC to hold summit on Germany's

DUBLIN (R) — The European Community (EC) said Friday it would hold a special summit in April to discuss problems of German unification. The Irish government, which currently holds the EC presidency, said the talks would probably take place in the third week of April though no final date had been set.

## Israel to open office in China

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel said on Friday it would soon open an academic institute in Beijing in an important step towards establishing diplomatic ties with China. "This is definitely a step felt in the right direction, both sides felt it was high time Israel established a semi-official representation to channel our contacts," foreign ministry director-general Reuven Merhav told reporters. Five Israeli scientists are expected to staff the Israeli academy of science and humanities office in Beijing, which Merhav said would be Israel's first representation in China.

## Sudan rebels claim capture of 3 towns

NAIROBI (AP) — Rebels said Friday they had overrun three more government garrisons in southern Sudan and beaten back a military convoy trying to come to the rescue of one. In a clandestine radio broadcast, the Sudan People's Liberation Army said it captured Kologi in southern Kordofan province "after seven days of heavy fighting preceded by a one-month siege." The broadcast said rebel forces also ambushed a 33-vehicle convoy, including four tanks, that was trying to reach Kologi and "forced it to retreat with heavy losses." The rebels also claimed the capture of two smaller garrison towns, Bazia on Jan. 24 and Amata Wednesday.

The report could not be independently confirmed.

## Mutilated corpses found in Azerbaijan

MOSCOW (R) — Twelve mutilated corpses, 11 of them Armenians from a home for invalids, have been found in a sand pit in Soviet Azerbaijan, the official news agency TASS said on Friday. TASS did not say who was suspected of the killings. But the corpses — 11 women and one man — appeared to be victims of an ethnic conflict between Armenians and Azeris which has killed hundreds over the past two years.

Eleven were identified as handicapped Armenians who disappeared from a home for invalids in the Azerbaijani city of Gyandzha on Jan. 24, TASS said. It did not identify the other victim.

## Swedish politics in disarray

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Finance Minister Kjell-Olof Feldt resigned Friday from the day-old caretaker cabinet, one day after the government resigned when his economic austerity package was defeated in parliament.

Feldt's resignation appeared to be an attempt by the Social Democrats, the former governing party, to regroup and build public confidence and build political support to form a new government. On Thursday, Prime Minister Ingvar Carlsson submitted the government's resignation, setting off a political crisis, after parliament rejected the economic austerity measures proposed by the widely respected Feldt. Carlsson announced that Feldt's deputy and budget director, Odd Engstrom, would fill the finance minister's post in the caretaker government.

## Kenyan minister found dead

NAIROBI (AP) — The partly burned body of Foreign Minister Robert Ouko was found Friday near his western Kenya home three days after his mysterious disappearance. The government indicated he had been murdered.

The discovery of Ouko's body was announced by President Daniel Arap Moi, who said it was found "in circumstances which at the moment suggest foul play."

The body of the 58-year-old minister was found in a sugar cane field about 6 kilometres from his family farm in Koro, not far from Lake Victoria.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## King pardons 29 political prisoners

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday ordered the government to release 29 convicted political prisoners in a continuing drive towards political liberalisation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King ordered the prisoners "release immediately." Twenty-seven are Jordanians and two are foreigners, it said.

The King ordered the release of the prisoners "so that they can return to their society and kinfolk, contribute to building the homeland and participate in serious and responsible work," Petra said.

An Interior Ministry official, speaking to the AP on condition of anonymity, said the decree covered prisoners who had already served at least half of sentences ranging from 10 to 15 years.

They included prisoners convicted of arms smuggling and other offenses, as well as membership in banned organisations. The official said their release papers were being processed.

The official indicated that another 40 political-related prisoners remained behind bars, and their cases were being studied for a possible amnesty. Some were convicted of bombings or attempted assassinations.

On his way back to Amman, the King visited Medina where he prayed at the Prophet Muhammad's Tomb Mosque. King Hussein was accompanied on the visit by Royal Court Chief Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and his Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh.

Khan, Hassan Mohammad Hussain Al Ali, Khams Abdal Qader Mohammad Rizq, Yousef Yaqoub Mohammad Al Kalawi, Ibrahim Abdul Rahman Ibrahim Jarad, Jamil Shaker Hussein Al Musa, Mohammad Khatab Mutasfa Musad, and Ahmad Hilal Id Al Dawayneh. The two non-Jordanians ordered freed were not identified.

The decree followed the King's return Thursday night from a visit to Saudi Arabia.

During the three-day visit, the King held talks with King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz on bilateral relations and regional and international affairs.

Petra said that the two leaders reaffirmed the need for a unified stand in the face of the developments in the region.

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Yasser Arafat on current coordination to unify Arab efforts in the face of the common challenges.

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### Single exchange rate goes into effect

AMMAN (J.T.) — A unified exchange rate for all foreign currencies goes into effect as of today in line with a decision announced by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ).

In a memorandum sent Thursday to commercial banks and licensed financial institutions, the CBJ said the move was implemented to accommodate the expected flood of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

The commission said it was seriously concerned at the re-

The United States abstained in the vote but described settlements as "an obstacle to peace."

European Community (EC) and other states introduced the resolution after Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said last month that a "big Israel" was needed to accommodate the expected flood of Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union.

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The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, drawn up to protect civilians from the effects of war, specifically prohibits occupying powers from transferring people into territory it was seized.

The commission resolution said: "The settling of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Fourth

## Qasem addresses Baghdad celebration

## 'ACC represents determination to achieve unity'

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem said Friday that the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) was a practical translation of the aspirations and determination of the peoples of the four founding countries to achieve the long-sought Arab unity at a time when the world is witnessing dramatic developments and changes.

Delivering a speech on behalf of His Majesty King Hussein at a major celebration held to mark the first anniversary of the ACC, Qasem said that "the changing international environment has served as an opportunity to activate the Arab Order."

"The state of mutual reliance characterising the international order does not allow for singularism or isolation, and the creation of economic blocs warrants that our nation rearranges its house and prepares itself for negotiating the Arab Nation and threatening

with other world blocs," he said.

"There is no room on our planet for small, dispersed weak entities since such entities can not provide the requirements of security, freedom and economic prosperity for their citizens, let alone maintain their independence and sovereignty and even their existence," Qasem said.

"The creation of the ACC was not a reaction to world events taking place in our sphere have contributed to its formation," he added.

Qasem stressed that "our meeting today should not serve as an occasion for celebrating the declaration of the ACC, but rather as an invitation for evaluating and assessing its one-year march."

Qasem called for bolstering cooperation and coordination among the ACC member states to counter the challenges facing the Arab Nation and threatening

the Arab Order. He summarised these challenges as: Iran's hesitancy to accept the calls for peace by Iraq, Israel's intransigence and its denial of the rights of the Palestinian people and Jewish immigration to Palestine from the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

On the eastern flank of the Arab World, Qasem said, Iraq is still hesitant over peace with Iraq.

"A strong and influential Arab gathering will serve as a positive means for convincing Iran of the importance of capitalising on the peace initiative made by Iraq," he said.

On the Western flank, Qasem said, Jordan is on the longest confrontation line with Israel, which still refuses to recognise the legitimate Palestinian rights, including the rights to self-determination and to establish an independent state. "Such intransigence on the part of Israel cannot be countered except through an influential and effective Arab entity," he said.

Israel seeks to weaken the Arab World and to contain the Arab Order in preparation for dominating it, he said. "Despite the continuing Palestinian uprising and our full support for it, and the positive stand of the Palestine

(Continued on page 3)

## UNHRC urges Israel to refrain from settlement

GENEVA (R) — The United Nations called on Israel Friday to refrain from settling immigrants in the occupied territories.

The U.N. Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), in a resolution passed by 42 votes to zero, also said Israel's entire settlement policy for the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights was illegal.

Palestinians have expressed alarm that new settlements will make it more difficult to recover the territories in the long term.

They also say new settlements compete with Palestinians for scarce resources like ground water.

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The commission resolution said: "The settling of Israeli civilians in the occupied territories is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Fourth

## Geneva Convention."

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which monitors implementation of the Geneva Conventions, also said Tuesday that the settlements were illegal.

U.S. Ambassador Morris Abram said his government disagreed with the way certain parts of the resolution were phrased, but he added:

"We believe that settlements are an obstacle to peace. We believe that putting more settlers in these areas, particularly at this time, works against the cause of peace."

The commission passed other resolutions, similar to ones approved in past annual sessions, "strongly condemning" the continued occupation as well as a long list of human rights violations from torture to expulsions.

## ANC to send delegation for talks with de Klerk

LUSAKA (Agencies) — In a major breakthrough, the exiled leadership of the African National Congress (ANC) said Friday it would send a delegation to South Africa for a meeting with President F.W. de Klerk.

The ANC delegation would be prepared to negotiate a suspension of hostilities until a climate conducive to negotiations has been created," according to a statement read at a news conference by ANC Secretary-General Alfred Nzo.

There was no immediate comment from de Klerk's office.

ANC leaders ended three days of strategy talks, called after de Klerk freed their leader Nelson Mandela from 27 years' jail last Sunday.

With the release of Mandela and other ANC elder statesmen

after decades in jail, South Africa's main black nationalist movement has been left with two sets of leaders in South Africa and Zambia.

Mandela said after his release he was a disciplined member of the ANC and would be guided by its rulings, ending speculation that he might use his status to go his own way.

It would be the first meeting between the guerrilla movement's exiled leaders and a South African head of state. No date for the meeting was announced, but Nzo said he hoped the meeting with de Klerk would be "as soon as possible."

The ANC also said it would

(Continued on page 3)

## Controversial 'apostasy' case resurfaces in appeals court

By Ghadeer Taher

Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — An "apostasy" case which sparked a fierce debate in the run-up to the Nov. 8 parliamentary elections but was dismissed by a religious court has been revived and brought to court again, this time by the lawyer of the original plaintiffs.

The case against Toujan Faisal, a former television personality and an unsuccessful candidate in the elections, was heard in a closed session at the Sharia appeals' court Thursday. Lawyers said the final verdict was expected to be issued Wednesday.

The original case, filed in

October by Sheikh Abdal Rahim Al Kurdi, a mullah in the Armed Forces, and Mutasem Faris, a private in the Armed Forces, was turned down five days before the elections by the Amman Sharia (Islamic law) court on grounds that it was beyond the court's jurisdiction.

Subsequently, the two plaintiffs withdrew from the case, but their lawyer is appealing the case on the basis that the original lawsuit was filed on behalf of "public right."

The fact that the original petitioners withdrew from the case does not mean the case is finished," said lawyer Abdulla

According to Shamayleh, "we have nothing against (Faisal) personally but her views are wrong and harmful to people."

The first case was based on an argument that some of Faisal's writings in the local newspapers "challenged the Prophet Mohammad's sayings." The original suit demanded that Faisal, a mother of three, be found guilty of apostasy and be detained, her marriage dissolved, her "repentance" be turned down if she made one, all her rights be denied and all her writings be banned and all those who shed her blood be given immunity.

During Thursday's court session, according to Shamayleh,

referred to an article she wrote in Al Rai's daily in September. She questioned why the plaintiffs had waited "until the elections and my candidacy to even raise the issue, particularly that I have been writing for a long time."

Shamayleh agrees that he took the case not just based on Faisal's September article. "People were beginning to listen to her misguided views on Islam because she was given a forum to air her views,"

Shamayleh said.

As the court heard the case Thursday, journalists, activists and professors gathered outside the buildings in a show of solidarity with Faisal.

According to Faisal, "there were many people who wanted to come in to the session to show solidarity."

"I appreciated this very much." But she refused to discuss any detail of the court proceedings and pointed out that the session was closed to the public.

Faisal, who did not attend any court session of the first case saying she did not expect "fair treatment," said Thursday's court proceedings were "decent and fair."

## Afghans still far from peace a year after Soviet pullout

By Jose Kartigak  
Reuter

KABUL — A year after Soviet troops pulled out of Afghanistan, peace for the battered country of 18 million people remains as elusive as ever.

Defying the predictions of Western analysts, President Najibullah has strengthened his grip on power since the last of the Soviet soldiers supporting him left the country on Feb. 15 last year.

But the war against U.S.-backed Afghan rebels rages on, leaving the economy in tatters and frustrating any effort to repair the devastation caused by 11 years of fighting.

"I am not optimistic the war will end soon even if the superpowers agree to stop supplying arms to the belligerents," said one foreign diplomat in Kabul.

Diplomats say neither side is strong enough to win on the battlefield.

The government has remained on the defensive since the Soviet pullout, battling to protect key towns from rebel attacks. But the rebels, attempting to switch from guerrilla tactics to conventional warfare, have suffered major setbacks.

"Under the present correlation of forces, the government cannot be beaten militarily," another diplomat said.

Kabul has repeatedly proposed a ceasefire, United Nations-supervised elections and the demobilisation of Afghanistan as the only way to end the conflict.

But the rebels have publicly refused to negotiate with a government that they hold responsible for the deaths of more than

one million people and the exile of five million others.

Najibullah renewed his offer to a truce Wednesday in a televised address to mark the first anniversary of the Soviet pullout.

The rebels fired five rockets at Kabul Thursday in an apparent rejection of the proposal.

Najibullah's offer coincided with a call by Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze for the demilitarisation of Afghanistan and a four-power peace conference.

Shevardnadze also proposed a halt to all arms supplies to Afghanistan and a ceasefire followed by the removal of all arms stocks from the country.

An Afghan journalist, who asked not to be identified, said the Soviet Union's intervention in Afghanistan had sown seeds of discord that were plaguing the country. "It will be a difficult task to reconcile," the two sides, the journalist said.

The war is fuelled by extensive military aid to the government from the Soviet Union, which entered Afghanistan in 1979 to prop up the faltering Marxist government, and to the rebels from the United States.

Despite improving relations between Moscow and Washington, Afghan government spokesman Mohammad Naqib said recently that the superpowers remained far from agreement on the conflict.

There is diplomatic consensus here that a deal between Moscow and Washington to halt arms supplies would benefit Kabul in the short run or, as one diplomat put it, "until their missiles and air power run dry."

"Before the revolution every-



thing was cheap and in abundance," said one government employee. "Now we have no security, no peace, no food, no nothing."

In the big cities at least, there appears to be more food than last year because the winter has been relatively mild. And there have been fewer rebel interruptions of a key highway that Kabul's main lifeline to the Soviet Union.

But in the countryside, United Nations officials report people are starving because of food shortages and a rapid decline in the purchasing power of the afghan.

The currency has plummeted to 500 to the U.S. dollar in the bazaars from 220 one year ago. The official rate is 55 afghanis to the dollar.

But even if arms supplies cease, both sides are believed to have enough weapons stockpiled to keep the war going at the same level for at least two years.

Few regret the departure of the Soviet forces.

Naqib said there were no plans to commemorate the pullout because sending troops into Afghanistan was a mistake and "you don't celebrate mistakes."

The government is trying to win support by distancing itself from its Communist past. Once a staunch proponent of Marxism-Leninism, the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan now claims to be Islamic, nationalist and pro-democracy.

Privately, government officials also agree that the coup which brought the Communists to power in 1978 was a mistake. "The timing was wrong because the people were not yet ready for socialism," a senior official said.

When the Soviet army withdrew, the diplomats, concerned about their safety, also packed their bags and left.

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In a five-page official statement released by Harish, the attorney general stated that, "There is no acceptable evidence...that Minister Weizman has committed any violations."

The statement also pointed out that Weizman has parliamentary immunity from prosecution.

The statement said in an investigation led by Chief of Police David Krans revealed that Weizman had met with the PLO's representative in Geneva, Nabil Ramawi, in June 1989. The statement also said that in November of that year Weizman held a telephone conversation with Dr. Ahmad Tibi, an Israeli Arab, who was visiting Tunis.

Shamir had accused Weizman of passing cabinet secrets to PLO leaders in Tunis during a telephone conversation.

Weizman said he was ending his review of secret material gathered in a police investigation of Weizman's meetings because there was "no acceptable evidence" that the minister knowingly met with PLO officials.



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## Defence Law needs to go

MUCH TALK has been heard on the need to lift the emergency regime from Jordan and some concrete action has been taken to phase it out on a step-by-step basis. Yet, little attention has been given to the Defence Law, which imposes restrictions on civil rights and liberties almost as much as martial law. To be sure, some voices were heard in Parliament about the need to repeal the Defence Law in conjunction with the lifting of martial law, but the overall attention of parliamentarians was directed on the latter.

What gives an added urgency to the call for repealing the Defence Law is the fact that Israel often refers to it as justification for its oppressive policies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Whether in expelling Palestinians living under occupation or detaining them without due process of the law, Israeli authorities often maintain that they are in fact observing laws that are still applicable in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and inherited from Jordan insofar as the West Bank is concerned. This fact alone gives a greater sense of urgency to the need to repeal the 55-year-old law in order to pull the rug from under the feet of Israeli authorities who exploit it for their own ends. Once Jordan repeals that law and lifts martial law as well, Israel will be denied any semblance of legal justifications for its actions and policies against the Palestinian people in the West Bank.

As far as Jordan is concerned, one cannot truly speak about lifting martial law without in the same breath calling for the repeal of the Defence Law, albeit the scope of the latter is much more limited than the first. Whether a Jordanian is detained in accordance with the Defence Law or the martial law makes no difference. In both cases he or she would have been denied his or her constitutional and legal rights under one pretext or another. It is therefore logical to expect the government, which has already taken meaningful measures to lift the martial regime from the law books of the country, to begin the complementary and necessary step of repealing the Defence Law. Otherwise it would be taking with the right hand what it has given with the left hand.

Admittedly, any action in the direction of removing the Defence Law from Jordanian jurisprudence would need to be taken after a thorough examination of the legal implications of such a step. But the process to rule out that law must begin in earnest. The same experts assigned the mandate of phasing out martial law in stages can also be asked to be seized with the task of repealing the Defence Law. Otherwise, the time needed to root out the Defence Law would be that much longer and agonising.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN EDITORIAL in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Friday reviewed the Lebanese strife. It said there was no alternative to legitimate government rule to end the bloody situation in the western as well as the eastern sectors of Beirut. The paper described as tragic the situation in east Beirut, "where rival Christian forces are waging a fierce battle and shedding the blood of innocent people," and said that whatever the result of the current battles there could be no victor or vanquished. Only through unity under the legitimate government of President Elias Hrawi can the Lebanese people breathe freely in a peaceful country and only through reconciliation among the various factions can the country stand on its feet again, the paper said. Those who continue to oppose the legitimate government and president, said the paper, are the enemies of the Lebanese people and they should be confronted by the Arab Nation at large to help bring about stability to Lebanon. But the paper added, the Lebanese people themselves should take the initiative and find a formula to live together in peace.

A columnist writing in Al Ra'i daily praised the Soviet call for an urgent session of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the question of Jewish immigrants settling in occupied Palestine. Abdil Rahim Omar said Moscow had been a staunch supporter of Arab rights in general and the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland in particular, but now that the Soviet Union is allowing more freedom to its people and in the light of the perestroika being applied everywhere in the country, one can naturally expect Moscow to offer freedom to Jews and non-Jews to express their desires freely and without any pressure. Despite that the Arabs still continue to demand and rightly so, that the Soviets do something to stop the influx of Jews to Palestine, the writer said. The Soviet Union, for its part, has now responded and is seeking diplomatic ways to appease the Arabs and safeguard the rights of all parties. The Arabs want from the Soviet Union moves to prevent the Zionists from uprooting the Palestinians, Omar said. He added that the Arabs consider the influx as a flagrant violation of their rights and they have the right to demand a halt to this dangerous immigration.

Al Dustour daily said the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) grouping Iraq, Egypt, North Yemen and Jordan — celebrates its first anniversary Saturday satisfied with its achievements in the past year, and the series of agreements designed to bring about full integration among the four states. What is needed now is serious efforts towards unity that should incorporate all Arab countries and the Arab masses harbour great hopes that the ACC leaders will take steps towards achieving this goal, the paper said. The Arabs have so far succeeded in forming three economic and political blocs, including the ACC, and it is natural for the Arab masses to expect a merger between them so that the long-awaited Arab unity becomes a reality, it added.

## VIEW FROM AMMAN

# History repeats itself, but are we aware?

By Dr. Kamel S. Abu Jaber

FOR those who think, it is no surprise that everything surprises us. And like all surprised people we are hardly ever capable of responding properly. And so it is with us this time too where our reaction to Soviet Jewish immigration is typical of our usual confusion and disarray. The affair is of particular importance since we know, or should know that it has been one of the major goals of the Zionist dream to gather from the so-called diaspora all the Jews of the world in the so-called promised land. We know that for centuries now the Jews of the world greeted each other with the words, "Next year in Jerusalem." We also know that from the first Zionist congress in Basle, Switzerland in 1897, the dream was turned into a blue print for action and was put into effect during and after the conclusion of the World War I. During the thirties, forties, fifties... etc! we saw the Jewish hordes flocking into Palestine fortified with their ancient hatreds, immune to logic and willing and capable to do injury to others at the least provocation; most often without any provocation at all.

In reading the literally hundreds of articles in our press, the statements made by our officials and the terrific commotion — mind you with no real action — one is struck at our apparent helplessness. Sadly those who have some memories recall that we had the same reaction when the Ethiopian Falasha Jews arrived in Palestine. As far as I know the Falasha Jews are now in Palestine and our reaction then, as I am afraid our reaction this case too, will amount to nothing. Soon the Israelis will get us busy with another of the "realities" they are so good at creating. Our attention will shift elsewhere and the Zionist grinding machine, slowly but ever so surely will do what it thinks it must do. The great philosopher Santayana once remarked that those who forget history are bound to suffer living it again.

His Majesty King Hussein cautioned against this possibility at least two years ago. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has

been warning against it as well as against the Israeli design at fragmenting and "balkanising" the Arab World. The Israelis have made no secret of their plans. On the contrary, it was the Zionist propaganda machine, and its very effective lobby in the West in general, and in the United States in particular, that was behind the alleged human rights campaign against the Soviet Union; the latter accused of restricting Jewish emigration. The campaign has been going on for years and for those who read and recall, the campaign, like most other Israeli efforts, was bound to succeed. Why did we do nothing? Is it right that we should act surprised? Where was the Arab League? The Palestine Liberation Organisation? Anybody?

The affair is so sad because it is so indicative of our lack of organisation even on the simplest level. We seem to continue to exist on the sidelines of world affairs, merely filling a space with no will of our own living our life from crisis to crisis as if no connection between them exists. Those of us who claim to be aware whisper in a desperate silent prayer, "Please Lord make our next crisis a manageable one."

The immigration of approximately one million souls of Soviet Jews over the next few years is indeed a tragedy on the scale of that of 1948 and more. More, because now that the state has been established, and in its military machine well-oiled, it is in a better position to utilise the new manpower. Two other factors of relevance should also be remembered: one that Israel appears to be on the threshold of another stage of its expansionism; a fact that was not hidden by Premier Shamir nor any of his cohorts, nor for that matter denied except feebly and certainly unconvincingly by "opposition" leader Mr. Shimon Peres. The other factor has to do with the exceedingly efficient use of manpower on the Israeli side and the total opposite of such efficiency on ours.

History does repeat itself for those who have no memory. The

similarity between what took place in 1948 and now is indeed striking. It was then, as is the case now, that the Soviet Union provided the immigrants; the men, and the United States provided the funds. Once again we will lame hobbles to our wailing wall at the United Nations to protest. We will surely hear much words of sympathy and just as much soothing sounds and shaking of the heads in solidarity with our cause. We may even succeed in passing another loftily worded resolution full of "wherefore" and "whereas" condemning and calling on Israel to do what it will not do.

Our case in the United States continues to be hostage to the domestic power politics and the strength of the Israeli lobby. This we knew, or should have known since 1948. And since 1948, and against all evidence and logic we have done nothing about it. In fact most Americans who visit the region — ranging from professors, lawyers, labour leaders, congressmen, senators and various and sundry officials — have told us we should build our own lobby like that of the Zionists to defend our cause. We know that the battle for Palestine, and in view of our military weakness, is just as important in America as it is in the Middle East. We know that the task is not an impossible one and that it is within the reach of even Jordan alone, not to mention a partnership with the PLO or other Arab states. Why we have done nothing is yet another witness to our lack of organisation and vision. There is another parallel that we should point to which should, at least this time move us to action. Again it is because of domestic politics, though this time in the Soviet Union that we are coming face to face with another tragedy. It is a Soviet economic need to liberalise, and Mr. Gorbachev's desire to provide consumer goods to his people, glasnost and perestroika, that lie behind this latest "fact creation" affair. Maybe we should respond to the call made by the Lower House of Parliament deputies and revive the "Eastern Front."

## Soviet hardliners struggle to grasp collapse of communism

By Patrick Worsnip  
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union is still struggling to come to terms with the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe even as Moscow cautiously embarks on the road of political pluralism already taken by its one-time satellites.

The official line promoted by Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and his supporters is clear: East Europeans, who for 40 years lived with carbon copies of the Soviet system, are now free to choose whatever model they like.

Debates at last week's landmark Central Committee meeting in Moscow, and private comments by Soviet and East European sources, show that some officials still have a psychological problem grasping what has happened and why.

"This comes on top of the practical problem of trying to run the East European blocs — the Warsaw Pact military alliance and the Comecon trading group — when the political and economic systems of their members are rapidly diverging.

Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze rallied to the defence of the policy.

"Don't blame perestroika for destroying the political structure of Europe," he said. "It was destroyed by the will of the peoples, who were no longer willing to put up with violence."

Many Soviet citizens feel that East Europeans who deface statues of Lenin and rename streets

that once honoured Soviet heroes are being ungrateful for their liberation from Nazism by the Soviet Union and for subsequent economic aid from Moscow.

Officials at the Central Committee express alarm at what they see as a "wave of anti-Communism" sweeping in particular East Germany and Czechoslovakia. "Honest Communists, those who kept their hands clean and were not even part of the corruption and oppression before, are being driven to suicide," one official said.

Many perestroika supporters say they must try to see things from the East European point of view.

"We must understand our share of responsibility for the economic system imposed upon these countries," political scientist Pyotr Gladkov wrote in the weekly Moscow News. "We were also responsible for suppressing any attempts to restructure or improve the political system."

Anti-Soviet sentiment in Eastern Europe was directed not at the Soviet public, Gladkov wrote,



but "against a system which, combined with their own similar systems, has oppressed them for 40 years and us for even longer."

Soviet diplomats who share such views say that by and large, the new East European governments are grateful to Gorbachev for starting the reforms that led to the overthrow of the old regimes. "But gratitude doesn't last for

ever," one said.

These diplomats say they are trying to build a new relationship with East European capitals, but are worried that strongly anti-Soviet governments may come to power in some of them following elections in the next few months.

"Poland looks like an island of stability," one official said. Poland, where Solidarity came to power last year and has pursued caution in its ties with Moscow, is the only country in the region not to have general elections planned this year.

The biggest problem for Soviet East European diplomacy is East Germany — host to 380,000 Soviet front-line troops — as it careers towards reunification with West Germany.

This, however, has now been put in international hands with an agreement at a 23-nation conference in Ottawa on Feb. 13 that the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain, France and the two

Germans would work together to resolve the problem.

Some Gorbachev allies say that what has happened in Eastern Europe provides a timely warning for the Soviet Union itself.

Ideology chief Vadim Medvedev told the Central Committee that developments there showed what happens when "over decades of deformation and stagnation, a critical mass of explosive material has piled up."

Perestroika, by uncovering the problems and enabling reforms, had allowed the country to avoid catastrophe, he said.

Officials said, however, they did not believe Gorbachev's decision to drop the Communist party monopoly on power was directly influenced by similar moves in Eastern Europe.

"This country is a law unto itself," one said. "The main factor for change has been the total failure of the Soviet economy to compete with the West."

## Socialism — the Japanese way

By Seigo Sakamoto  
Reuter

TOKYO — After being out of power for more than 40 years, the Japan Socialist Party (JSP) is trying hard to convince the voters — and itself — that it is ready to govern.

The Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), which has ruled for 34 years, is expected to squeak by with a narrow majority in the Feb. 18 elections.

But the JSP expects its own kind of victory at the polls — an end to one-party rule by the LDP — and it's setting aside its internal squabbles and softening its anti-U.S., anti-business stance of the past.

"If we want power, it is natural that we should start from reality," Shigeru Ito, chairman of the JSP's policy board, said. "We should aim for reforms on a gradual but steady basis."

The JSP is not fielding enough candidates to stand a chance of winning outright victory on Sunday, but said it would seek to rule with other non-Communist parties.

The pro-business LDP faces its toughest test in more than three

decades of rule in the parliamentary elections. Analysts expect it to maintain a narrow majority, but say the possibility of a Social-ist-led coalition cannot be ruled out.

"We are aiming for 140 seats. If we fail to win 130, we'll have to do some serious soul-searching," Ito said.

The JSP, the main opposition group, held 84 seats in parliament's powerful lower house before that 512-member chamber was dissolved for this month's election.

Led by the flamboyant Takako Doi, Japan's first female political leader, the JSP spearheaded an upset victory by the opposition in upper house elections last July.

Sex and money scandals, unpopular sales tax and farmer anger at agriculture liberalisation all contributed to the LDP's loss of control of the upper house for the first time in its 34-year history.

"We were all thrilled at the dramatic change," Ito said.

"It signifies the beginning of the end of single-party rule by the LDP and the dawning of a new era which can allow for a change of power."

But he admitted that the party

has much work to do to get ready to govern.

"We might have fallen into the habit of thinking of ourselves as being a permanent opposition party," Ito said. "We have to radically alter our style — shifting from opposing anything the government proposes to taking responsibility for the future of Japan."

That means giving up some of the party's most cherished beliefs because they are viewed as unrealistic by many of Japan's voters.

"It is only natural that we should continue to be on the side of the Western democracies," Ito said. "Our economy is based on a market mechanism. We won't adopt a government-controlled economy. But at the same time, we will impose restrictions or offer guidance to meet the needs of the whole society."

The party has also softened its opposition to the U.S.-Japan security treaty, which was first signed in 1951 and which governs military relations between the two nations.

"We will allow the U.S.-Japan security treaty to continue, the

Japanese self-defence forces to exist and existing nuclear power plants to operate. From this reality, we make a start," Ito said.

The JSP used to be notorious for fierce intra-party ideological strife. But with the chance of an opposition coalition emerging, leftists and rightists within the party have put aside their quarrels for now, analysts said.

But the party has had less success in convincing its potential coalition partners that it is willing to change its ways and adopt more middle-of-the-road policies.

"Immediately after the election ends, we plan to resume serious, substantive discussion on a coalition," Ito said.

"If we really intend to work out an agreement, it's a simple matter."

Its potential partners are the middle-of-the-road Democratic Socialist Party, the Buddhist-backed Komitei (Clean Government) and the tiny United Social Democratic Party.

But analysts said that about the only issue the four non-Communist opposition parties agreed on is the need to abolish the three percent sales tax introduced last April.

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The point at which Washington might lift sanctions imposed by Congress in 1986 over then-President Ronald Reagan's veto has been much debated here since Mandela's release, but appears still far off.

Bush told the news conference he would lift no sanctions until Pretoria met all conditions set by the U.S. sanctions law.

La 2ème Exposition Internationale du Livre d'Amman s'ouvre mardi

## Réveiller un marché frileux en Jordanie

Pour la deuxième année consécutive, la plus importante maison d'édition de Jordanie, Dar al-Bashir, organise du 20 février au 1er mars "Salon international du Livre" à Amman (\*). Selon les organisateurs, 25.000 titres, parus chez quelque

Radwan Da'boul en débord. Fondateur de Dar al-Bashir, la principale maison d'édition jordanienne, il passe ses journées au téléphone. Même régler tous les problèmes d'intendance, les environs d'invitations... avant qu'il prochainement date de l'ouverture du 2ème Salon international du Livre ("SIL") au Centre des Expositions, face à l'université de Jordanie. Un salon dont il a pris l'initiative, tout seul, l'an dernier.

"Je suis l'unique éditeur du pays à participer au Salon de Francfort, le grand rendez-vous du livre en Europe. Je vais également à Dama, à Ryad. Je vois le rôle que jouent ces manifestations pour encourager la production d'ouvrages, comme pour la lecture. Et je pense qu'il est temps pour la Jordanie d'avoir aussi sa propre annuelle de l'édition", explique-t-il.

A en croire les chiffres, l'idée semble bonne. En 1989, nous avions réuni 12.000 titres, proposés par 130 éditeurs. Cette année, nous en attendons 25.000, exposés par 177 éditeurs de 21 pays différents, dont les Etats-Unis, l'URSS, la Chine, la Grande-Bretagne, la RFA, les Pays-Bas... assure Radwan Da'boul. Ses parutions arabes seront représentées, dont la Jordanie, avec 37 éditeurs.



La librairie Dar al-Bashir d'Abdall: le livre se vend mal.

Le lojban, nouvelle langue artificielle

## Le rêve de communication universelle

Après l'espéranto, le volapük et quelques dizaines d'autres langues artificielles, le lojban, qui se développe modestement aux Etats-Unis, tente à son tour de réaliser le vieux rêve d'un langage universel.

"Xu te tavlo fa lo lojban". Comprenez: Parlez-vous lojban? Si vous posez la question, on vous répondra généralement non. A moins que vous ne tombiez sur l'un des quelque 600 adeptes, recensés par le monde, de la dernière néo-lingue artificielle.

Le lojban est en fait une nouvelle version du loglan (logical language) dont un taxinomiste de l'Université de Floride, James Cooke Brown, avait posé les bases il y a environ 35 ans. Son idée, à l'époque: inventer une langue culturellement neutre, complètement logique et sans la moindre ambiguïté. Son objectif: vérifier l'hypothèse scénaristique de Sapir-Whorf selon laquelle la structure du langage conditionne la pensée de ses utilisateurs.

Des vents de 70 à 90 km/h, 40mm d'eau en une nuit... La Jordanie en grande dépression

Dans les années 1980, un barbu à lunettes, Bob LeChevalier, le lojban, doté d'un alphabet de 17 consonnes et 6 voyelles, est "doux et rythmé, un peu comme l'italien", et décide à processor. Son vocabulaire a été conçu à partir des six langues les plus parlées dans le monde: le chinois, l'anglais, l'hindi, le russe, l'espagnol et l'arabe.

Quant à la grammaire, composée d'un ensemble très complexe de règles dont l'absence d'ambiguité est vérifiée par ordinateur, "elle n'a pas copié sur celle d'aucune langue connue et dérive de la logique formelle", assure-t-il. Ainsi, l'explication la meilleure est généralement la plus simple". La langue n'est en effet pas schématique: son grammairie n'a pas encore été entièrement fixée, mais les mots, généralement composées à partir de quelque 1.300 racines, manquent de sens.

Il est ainsi bien difficile de parler, en lojban, des animaux, des plantes et de nourriture. Le mot "scorpion", par exemple, n'existe pas encore. La seule solution reste le recours à la péjorative, souvent péjorative. "Mon interlocuteur risque de croire que je lui parle de mon chat", reconnaît Bob LeChevalier, conscient des lacunes de cette nouvelle langue artificielle.

Il ne donne cependant pas que le lojban soit de bon jours devant lui. "Il pourrait être utilisé pour la rédaction des lois et des traités, par exemple en Europe", soutient-il. A condition qu'on n'appelle pas trop souvent un chat un chat... (D'après agence).

Des vents de 70 à 90 km/h, 40mm d'eau en une nuit... La Jordanie en grande dépression

Dans la capitale notamment, la violence des précipitations s'est traduite en basse ville par des rues et des magasins inondés dans la nuit de mercredi à jeudi. Un phénomène identique a été observé dans de nombreux wadi du pays, sans causer cependant de dégâts importants.

"Nous avons enregistré des pluies très basses de la saison", souligne Ali Abada, directeur du département de la météorologie nationale. "Un tel phénomène ne se produit ici qu'une ou deux fois par an. La tempête de mercredi a été provoquée par un léger déplacement vers le Turquie de la grande dépression, installée actuellement au dessous de l'Europe du Nord. D'où un front froid très actif, responsable des orages et des pluies diluviales, mêlées de neige fondue".

Le retour au calme d'hier s'explique par un nouveau mouvement du cœur de cette dépression vers l'Europe, où de nouvelles tempêtes se sont levées hier. Ainsi en France, où avalanches et inondations ont fait jeudi six morts et cinq blessés. Le même jour, au large des côtes nord-africaines, une plateforme de forage, avec 33 personnes à son bord, a rompu ses amarres.

Depuis la fin du mois dernier, les intempéries frappent sans discontinuer l'ouest du Vieux Continent. L'une d'elles avait fait 23 morts, le 3 février dernier, en France.

La Jordanie, quant à elle, devrait à nouveau faire les frais du "mauvais temps européen" ce week-end. "Nous nous attendons au pire, samedi ou dimanche, d'un deuxième front froid, avec vents et pluies", avertit Ali Abada.

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177 éditeurs arabes, européens, asiatiques et américains, seront proposés au public. Pour les pouvoirs publics, qui notent l'absence de représentants de la plupart des "participants" à l'exposition, il s'agit

avant tout d'une "opération commerciale". Une polémique, qui a de quoi surprendre dans un pays où, à l'instar du monde arabe, les livres restent une denrée rare.

par le directeur général du département des bibliothèques, des documentations et des archives nationales (DLDNA) du ministère de la Culture, Ahmad Sharikas. "C'est une manifestation privée, qui abuse des mots en se qualifiant d'internationale". L'an dernier, il n'y avait presque que des livres islamiques. Cette année, les organisateurs parlent de près de deux cents éditeurs "participants" alors qu'en fait, il n'y a que les distributeurs et pas de représentants de ces sociétés. C'est une opération commerciale", souligne-t-il.

Ce dernier qualifie, Radwan Da'boul l'accepte totalement. Ce salon est évidemment l'occasion pour le public d'acheter des livres. Nous les vendons avec près de 50% de réduction pendant une semaine. Vous trouverez même des ouvrages interdits dans le pays et exceptionnellement proposés à l'exposition". Pour le directeur de Dar al-Bashir, cette initiative a pour tout objectif de "faire se rencontrer des éditeurs et de leur faire connaître la Jordanie. Cette année, nous aurons des représentants de compagnies étrangères", affirme-t-il.

Autre intérêt, selon lui: mettre un peu d'ordre dans l'édition locale, marquée par de trop nombreuses éditions avec tant d'acuité, ce taux s'élevait à 133.

Plus inquiétante, sans doute, est l'évolution de ces chiffres sur les trois dernières décennies. De 1955 à 1985, les pays arabes ont progressé de 110 points (27 à 37). Dans le même temps, l'Afrique Noire, par exemple, en gagnant 14, passant de 10 à 24. Toujours en 1985, le monde arabe arrivait derrière dans la répartition planétaire de l'édition du livre, avec 0,9%, pour une population totale évaluée à 4% de la population mondiale. L'Océanie, avec seulement 0,5% de la population mondiale, affichait elle 1,5% du gâteau de l'édition (Voir graphique).

Autre comparaison troublante: celle avec Israël. En 1983, l'Etat hébreu totalisait un volume d'édition deux fois supérieur à celui du monde arabe dans son ensemble. Mais c'est à vue

d'Europe que le fossé demeure le plus vertigineux. Avec 7.000 titres publiés en 1985, l'ensemble des pays de la Ligue arabe atteignait seulement 23% de la production française (30.424 titres).

Un sujet de débat et de préoccupations en perspective pour les participants au premier Salons euro-arabe du Livre, qui organise l'Institut du monde arabe au mois de mai à Paris et auquel Dar al-Bashir espère prendre part à peine.

### Un statut moribond

Mais c'est surtout à l'échelle du monde arabe que le statut quasi moribond du livre apparaît le plus crûment. En 1985, les 20 Etats qui le comptaient, affichaient un nombre de 37 titres par million d'habitants, selon les statistiques de l'UNESCO (Voir encadré). En Amérique du Sud, où le sous-développement, et notamment l'analphabétisation,

s'accompagne avec tant d'acuité, ce taux

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temps, l'Afrique Noire, par exemple,

en gagnant 14, passant de 10 à 24.

Toujours en 1985, le monde arabe

arrivait derrière dans la réparti-

tion planétaire de l'édition du livre,

avec 0,9%, pour une popula-

tion évaluée à 4% de la popula-

tion mondiale. L'Océanie, avec seulement 0,5% de la population mondiale,

affichait elle 1,5% du gâteau de l'édition (Voir graphique).

Autre comparaison troublante: celle

avec Israël. En 1983, l'Etat hébreu

totalisait un volume d'édition deux

fois supérieur à celui du monde arabe dans son ensemble. Mais c'est à vue

d'Europe que le fossé demeure le plus

vertigineux. Avec 7.000 titres publiés

en 1985, l'ensemble des pays de la

Ligue arabe atteignait seulement 23%

de la production française (30.424 titres).

Un sujet de débat et de préoccupa-

tions en perspective pour les parti-

cipants au premier Salons euro-

arabe du Livre, qui organise l'Institut

du monde arabe au mois de mai à Paris et auquel Dar al-Bashir espère prendre part à peine.

Alain Ronan.

## EN BREF

CCA. Le Conseil de coopération arabe a célébré hier à Bagdad son premier anniversaire. On peut y voir les ministres des Affaires étrangères des quatre pays membres (Jordanie, Egypte, Irak et Yémen du Nord), ainsi que le secrétaire général de la Ligue arabe, Cheikh Klibi. Des représentants du Conseil de coopération du Golfe (CCG) et de l'Union du Maghreb arabe (UMA) participent également à la manifestation. Les chefs de diplomatie des pays du CCA ont profité de ce rassemblement pour s'entretenir de la situation libanaise et de l'immigration massive des juifs d'URSS dans les territoires occupés.

Liban. Après une fragile accalmie de deux jours, les duels d'artillerie ont repris entre les troupes de l'armée libanaise (FL) de Sami Geagea dans le secteur chrétien de Beyrouth et les troupes houthis. Le chef des FL avait pourtant admis mercredi l'autorité de Michel Aoun sur le pays chrétien, mais en réaffirmant son refus d'engager ses hommes à l'assaut. Depuis le 31 janvier, les combats entre les deux forces de Beyrouth-Est ont fait plus de 510 morts et près de 2.000 blessés.

Mandela. Libéré dimanche dernier après plus de 27 ans passés derrière les barreaux, Nelson Mandela, 71 ans, a affirmé à plusieurs reprises depuis sa libération que le Congrès national africain (ANC) était prêt à un compromis avec le pouvoir pour l'établissement d'un suffrage universel direct sans discrimination de race en Afrique du Sud. Le leader historique du mouvement national a déclaré: "J'aime la liberté. J'aime la paix. J'aime la justice. J'aime la dignité humaine. J'aime la famille. J'aime l'amitié. J'aime l'unité. J'aime l'harmonie. J'aime l'ordre. J'aime la sécurité. J'aime la paix sociale. J'aime la paix mondiale. J'aime la paix universelle".

Retrait. L'URSS s'est engagée à entamer le retrait de ses troupes stationnées en Tchécoslovaquie à partir du 26 février, a révélé hier à Prague le quotidien du syndicat communiste tchèque. Selon le journal, la plupart des 75.000 hommes de l'Armée Rouge auront quitté le territoire avant la fin du mois de mars.

France-Roumanie. Le premier ministre roumain a entamé hier une visite de cinq jours en France. Pierre Mauroy, qui participera mardi à Paris à un colloque sur la nouvelle donne Est-Ouest, doit s'entretenir aujourd'hui avec le président François Mitterrand. Il rencontrera également le chef du gouvernement français, Michel Rocard, et le ministre des Affaires étrangères, Roland Dumas.

C'est fou. Le Pdg de Panier, Gustave Leven, a annoncé mercredi à Paris que son groupe avait décidé de "retrouver partout dans le monde" la célèbre marque française d'eau gazeuse. Cette mesure intervient après la découverte, il y a deux semaines, de benzene dans des bouteilles exportées aux Etats-Unis. 700 millions de bouteilles se retrouvent ainsi retirées de la vente. Coût total de l'opération: 400 millions de francs (environ 70 millions de dollars).

## A L'AFFICHE

### CINEMA

Looking for Ebeen, de Rudolf Van Den Berg, avec Thom Hoffman et Lynsey Anthony (1987). Alors qu'il vient de perdre son amie Philip rencontre Eileen. A peine commencé à la connaître et à sortir de sa torpeur, qu'elle disparaît. Festival de films de cinéma classique Philadelphie, vendredi 17 à 20h00 (samedi 18 à 21h00). Le programme sera suivi d'un débat animé par le responsable du ciné-club d'Annam, Hassan Abo-Ghazaleh.

Festival Deneuve. Le centre culturel français propose jusqu'à la fin du mois de février de films, dont Catherine Deneuve est l'actrice principale. Cette semaine:

Le Lieu du crime, d'André Téchiné, avec Victor Lanoux et Danièle Darrieux (1988). Les aventures de Thomas, 14 ans, dont le village sans histoire se retrouve secoué par un événement inattendu...

Centre culturel français, mercredi 21 à 20h00 (en français, sous-titré en arabe).

Sophie's choice, d'Alan J. Pakula, avec Meryl Streep et Kevin Kline. Été 1947: l'Amérique tente d'effacer toutes les séquelles de la deuxième guerre mondiale, en dépit des drames personnels...

Centre américain, jeudi 22 février à 19h00 (en anglais, sous-titré en français).

Ciné-club. Séances à 13h00, 15h00, 17h00, 18h30 et 20h00. Nouveaux films, du lundi à 20h00. Projection pour les

jeunes, le jeudi à 15h00.

Samedi 17: "Spartacus", de Stanley Kubrick, avec Kirk Douglas, Charlton Heston, Peter O'Toole, Laurence Olivier, et autres.

Dimanche

## Perrier withdraws bottles from all world markets

PARIS (R) — France's Perrier has said it was withdrawing its familiar green bottles from all world markets to reassure consumers but said it had tracked down the source of the toxic agent contaminating its mineral water.

"We do not want the slightest doubt, however small, to tarnish our product's reputation for quality and purity," Chairman Gustave Leveil told a chaotic news conference at the company's Paris headquarters.

Leveil, a benign 75-year-old who rarely meets journalists, told them "human error" was to blame for the presence of benzene, a colourless solvent thought to cause cancer.

The discovery sparked a worldwide scare and sent Perrier shares tumbling on the Paris stock market.

The worldwide recall, involving up to 160 million bottles, will cost the company an estimated

400 million francs (\$70 million) before tax. Perrier is the world's leading mineral water producer and markets one billion bottles a year.

General Manager Frederick Zimmer said a filter which normally removed impurities such as benzene from the natural gas which gives Perrier its fizz had not been replaced at the firm's bottling plant in Vergeze in southeastern France.

"The filters were meant to be changed every six weeks. They had not been replaced for three or four months," he said.

Perrier officials said the filters had now been changed, the water was being regularly tested, and uncontaminated supplies would be back on the shelves within days in some countries and two or three weeks at the latest in others.

Zimmer admitted there had been negligence and said the com-

pany intended taking disciplinary action.

The health scare started at the weekend when the U.S. Food and Drug Administration said it had discovered "tiny" traces of benzene in samples of France's best-known mineral water.

As it spread, with distributors in Canada, Japan, Denmark, the Netherlands and West Germany withdrawing their stocks from sale, Perrier shares tumbled.

Shares on the Paris bourse closed 60 francs (\$10) down at 1,413 francs (\$248) Wednesday, 16.4 per cent down from last Friday's closing price of 1,692 francs (\$297).

The French stock exchange watchdog COB announced Wednesday it was launching an inquiry into possible insider trading in Perrier stock on the MONEP options market last Friday, a day before news of the animation broke.

## Saudi share market poised for steady growth after boom

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia's infant share market looks poised for steady growth in 1990 after dramatic gains last year in stock prices of some banks and industrial firms.

Plans to launch the first electronic share dealing system in the Gulf in April and possible new share flotation should whet investor appetite for Saudi stocks, share analysts have said.

But slower growth in company profits and government steps to curb speculation should keep share price rises lower than last year, when the official stock index jumped 20 per cent.

"The market will continue to grow but in a more normal way based on improved company performance — we will not see the kind of wild speculation we saw last year," said a member of the Riyadh-based Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment.

In October the Saudi index for 55 listed companies traded on the kingdom's telephone and telex market broke 100 for the first time since it was set up in February 1983. It has continued to rise, reaching 110.26 at the end of December.

Figures released by the Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA) show the total value of shares traded in 1989 was 3.4 billion riyals (\$906 million), 65 per cent up on 1988.

Traded share value of listed commercial banks soared 205 per cent over 1988, taking up about half the total business volume.

Cement firms followed with a 52 per cent gain in traded share value, then industrial companies with 36 per cent and service firms with 23 per cent. Analysts said this was offset by sharp declines in the electricity and agriculture sectors.

Analysts said the deal included \$3.4 billion in interest payments owned to the end of 1989 on which Poland had fallen behind.

It also covered 100 per cent of the principal and interest payments falling due between now and the end of March 1991, he said.

Poland and 17 creditor governments have been locked in negotiations on the rescheduling since Wednesday.

Trichet said the speed at which the Western governments had managed to agree on rescheduling such an enormous sum showed their confidence in Poland and their desire to help it implement courageous market-oriented reforms.

The Paris Club now expects commercial banks to postpone all the interest that Poland owes them — something that has never been done for any other country — Trichet said.

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# Sports

Lendl, McEnroe advance into Skydome quarterfinals

TORONTO (AP) — Ivan Lendl and John McEnroe stayed on course for a semifinal showdown, advancing to the quarterfinals of the Skydome tennis tournament with straight set victories.

Lendl, late Thursday defeated Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands 7-5, 6-2 after demanding and getting a new net judge. The referee warned Lendl for arguing a net call during the first set, but the top seed made his point and the net judge was replaced.

"I can't stand incompetence and mediocrity," said Lendl, who had 13 aces.

McEnroe, seeded third, eliminated practice partner Liev Shireen 6-4, 6-3.

"We had a couple of words under our breath at each other

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIAH HIRSCH

C-1988 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

### READING THE CARDS

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH  
A 10 9 6 2

D A 3 9

J 2

A 6 4

WEST  
EAST

A 5 4

7 6 5 4 3 2

Q 8 7

9 8 7 5

A Q 10 6 4

\* A 8 3

Q 10 9

SOUTH

A K Q J 8 7

J 10

K 3

K 2 5 2

The bidding:

West North East South

Pass Pass Pass 1♦

Pass 4♦ Pass Pass

Opening lead: Nine of ♦.

Dear Charlie:

At the moment I am in Italy filming a thriller. It brings to mind how similar are the tasks that face a declarer and a detective. Each must ferret out the clues that lead to the solution of the problem at hand.

Which reminds me of this hand I played a couple of years ago at the annual tournament in Crans-sur-Sierre. My team was leading the competition and it came up halfway

through the match against our closest challengers. My partner's passed-hand raise to four spades was a trifle aggressive, but then you know that Paul Chirico is never shy in the bidding.

West led a diamond. East won the ace and returned the queen. My problem was to avoid losing three club tricks. I drew trumps in two rounds and, since even a winning finesse in hearts would not provide a solution, I eliminated hearts by ruffing the third round.

I now knew East had started with ace-queen of diamonds and queen of hearts. Had he held the ace of clubs as well, he would surely have opened the bidding. I was about to lead a low club to the jack when it dawned on me that there was something unusual about the defense. If East held nothing in clubs, why didn't he shift to that suit at trick two? Ergo, he had to have a holding that made a club lead unattractive—the queen.

So I led a low club from hand and ducked. I did not mind who won. Actually, East won the nine and returned the ten, but I had no problem in letting that run to the jack and thereby hold my club losses to two tricks.

## Navratilova into quarterfinals

CHICAGO (R) — Top seed Martina Navratilova conducted a compassionate tennis clinic at the expense of fellow American Anne White at the \$300,000 Chicago tennis tournament Thursday.

Navratilova barely had time to work up a sweat as she despatched White 6-0, 6-0 in just 40 minutes to advance to the quarterfinals.

Navratilova, who dropped just 11 points in the first set and 14 in the second, said she came into the match with the intention of working on various parts of her game.

"I've been working with Billy Jean King on so many things," said Navratilova. "I worked on every facet of my game tonight I could, ground strokes, volleys, serves and footwork."

White admitted that she would not have bet against Navratilova coming into the match.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY FEBRUARY 17, 1990  
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** You can use today to wind-up an older year point that has followed you into the New Year. An agreeable note that is quick, responsive and logical will hold the clue to this arrangement.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Get off alone with family and find out just what they expect of you. Adding your attachment with a problem will bring affectionate returns.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You can add to your abundance now through your own creative skills. Take your family out to amazing recreations on the town and be happy.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Entertain at home those you want to be much closer to in the future. A soft work spoken at your loved one could bring long-time positive results.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You can discuss financial conditions with friends who understand your position. Full scope discussion of the future with your attachment will be productive.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Confusion at home can be avoided by more consideration being shown. Carry through with long time plans made with your attachment.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Get off alone with a man you want to sidle you in a recreational activity. You can have a sparkling

time enjoying your close attachment.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Go along with good friends on trips as they have the better judgement. Your family will now approve of and respond to your fine inspiration.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) You need to be more receptive to the wishes of those who dwell beneath your own roof. Avoid any direct assaults on your attachment's pride.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Your home should be the place today for just you and your family. Go out with your attachment where influential persons can admire you as a couple.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Let interesting friends know what you would like to do with them socially. A day to invite and make friends of as many newcomers as possible.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Bring outside associates more into your daily activities and duties. Have associates give ideas how you could improve your home existence.

**TODAY'S CHILD:** If your child were born today he or she is being and determined in whatever he or she wishes to accomplish and at the same time is enthusiastic and uncompromising in what this child wants when it is of a career or social nature. You can be certain that this progeny will be interested in current events that expand consciousness.

**VIRGO CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Entertain at home those you want to be much closer to in the future. A soft work spoken at your loved one could bring long-time positive results.

**LIBRA CHILDREN:** (September 23 to October 22) Get off alone with a man you want to sidle you in a recreational activity. You can have a sparkling

time enjoying your close attachment.

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**MONDAY:** (March 20 to April 18) You can add to your abundance now through your own creative skills. Take your family out to amazing recreations on the town and be happy.

**TUESDAY:** (April 19 to May 17) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

**WEDNESDAY:** (May 18 to June 16) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

**THURSDAY:** (June 17 to July 15) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

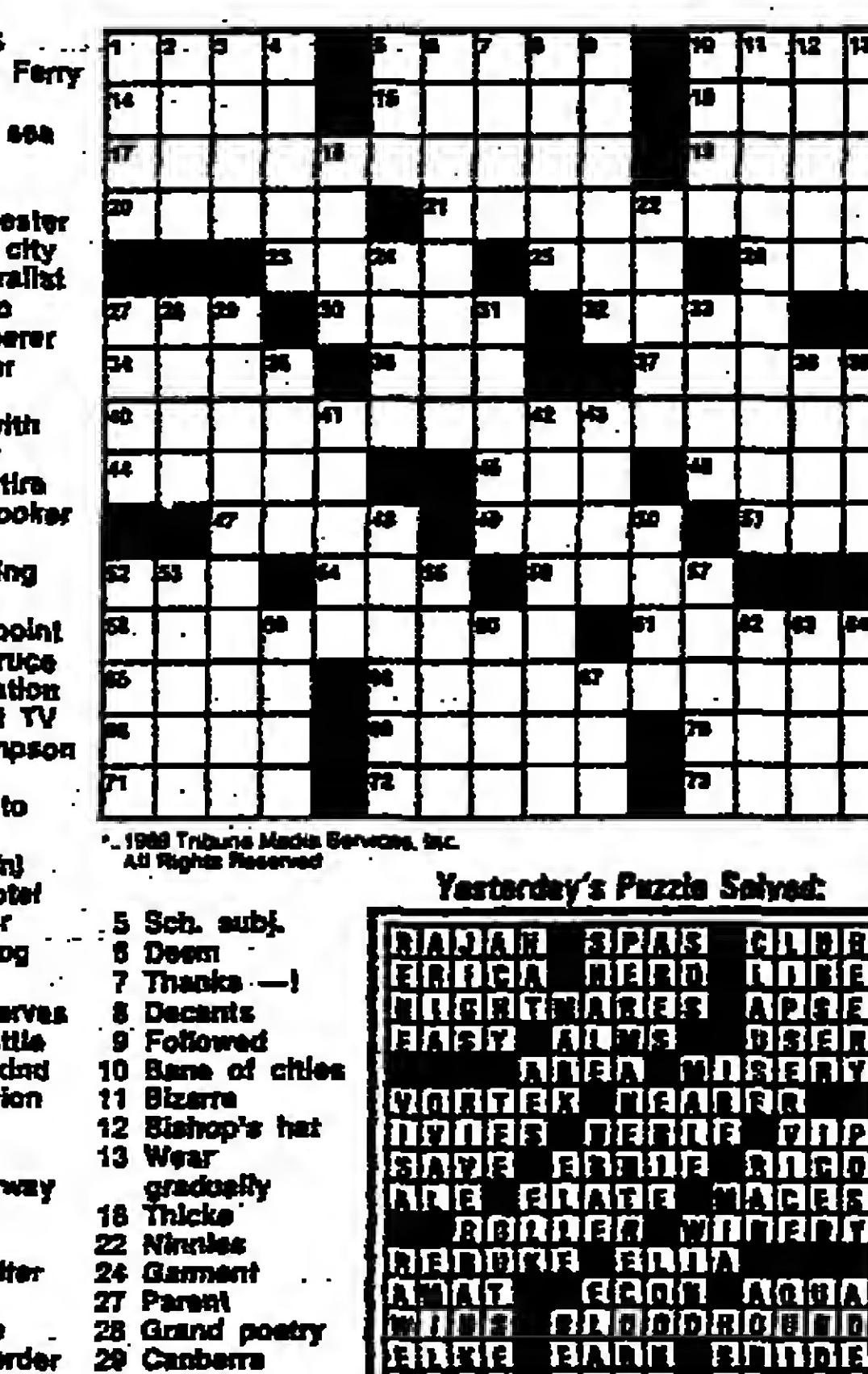
**FRIDAY:** (July 16 to August 14) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

**SATURDAY:** (August 15 to September 13) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

**SUNDAY:** (September 14 to October 12) Home problems are best worked out now in a very common sense manner. Adopting a cooperative attitude will mean much to your attachment now.

## THE Daily Crossword

by Donald S. Gross



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MY TUTOR

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

## Samaranch ends official visit

# IOC to finance an Olympic library and museum in Jordan

By Serene Halasa  
Special to the Jordan Times

conference was more on international sporting issues which have heavy political undertones. These included the international sports boycott of South Africa and its expulsion from the IOC and Olympic Games since 1970.

Asked whether the recent reforms carried out by the white minority regime in South Africa encouraged the IOC to reconsider the membership status of the country and allow it to participate in the 1992 Olympics, Samaranch said it was too early to say anything. "Something is moving in South Africa and we are studying what is happening there very carefully," he said.

However, he announced that he planned to meet with an Olympic committee on apartheid in Kuwait Monday to discuss South Africa.

The Olympic movement will always be on the side of the African countries because the solution for this problem must come from South Africa," he said.

Asked "why such measures were not taken against Israel, which is internationally seen as practising racial policies similar to South Africa's apartheid," Samaranch said: "The difference is that Israel is a member of all the international (sports) organisations and this is not the case with South Africa."

Samaranch extended to the IOC chief a formal invitation to attend the opening ceremony of the 1992 Olympics.

The IOC chief was presented with the Jordanian Olympic Committee's shield in acknowledgement of his support for sports activities in Jordan.

Samaranch and Fahd left Friday for Iran as part of a tour which will also include Iraq, Bahrain and Kuwait.

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# World News

## Soviets to start pullout from Czechoslovakia on Feb. 26

PRAGUE (Agencies) — Soviet troops will start leaving Czechoslovakia in 10 days, the Communist Party trade union daily Prace said Friday.

The Soviet Union has 75,000 troops and some dependants stationed in Czechoslovakia following a Soviet-led Warsaw Pact invasion in August 1968 which ended the Prague Spring liberalisation era under Alexander Dubcek.

The paper said the military pullout would start Feb. 26 and a substantial part of the Russian military force would be withdrawn by May 31.

Prace said the pullout date was agreed at a meeting of Czechoslovak and Soviet experts who started negotiating the timetable and technical details of a troop withdrawal last month.

For many Czechoslovaks now led by a reformist government, the Soviet officers and soldiers are no longer welcome.

Thousands of citizens have demonstrated in recent weeks to demand that the Soviet troops leave at once. In one protest 30,000 massed in Prague shouting "Tvan, go home."

The hardline Communist leaders who invited Warsaw Pact troops to throttle the Dubcek-era reforms surrendered power last November after huge street protests.

Czechoslovakia was the first Warsaw Pact state occupied by Soviet forces to open talks on their withdrawal.

It flatly told Moscow it wanted the first contingent to go before free elections in June and the rest out by the end of the year.

talks in Vienna on reducing conventional forces in Europe, but Hungary has not.

Officials appear confident of a Vienna agreement this year, now that the Soviets have accepted U.S. President George Bush's proposal to reduce the number of U.S. and Soviet soldiers in Central Europe to 195,000 on each side, while allowing the United States to keep 30,000 troops in outlying countries.

Later, however, CTK said Soviet and Czechoslovak delegations meeting in Prague agreed that the pullout would begin on Feb. 26, the day President Vaclav Havel begins his visit to Moscow.

As they approach their first free elections in more than 40 years, Hungarians and Czechoslovakians view the removal of Soviet forces as a symbolic affirmation of independence.

Havel indicated Tuesday that a personal letter he received from Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev might help resolve the question of how soon all 73,500 Red Army soldiers would be out of Czechoslovakia. He did not elaborate.

Talks on the withdrawal began in Prague in January. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lubos Dobrovsky told journalists Tuesday an agreement on a deadline could be reached by Sunday, which would allow Havel to sign it when he goes to Moscow.

Magyar Nemzet, a Hungarian daily, quoted Foreign Ministry official Ferenc Somogyi as saying Hungary could "count on working out the agreement within a month."

Czechoslovakia has insisted that the Soviets withdraw regardless of the results of East-West



## Nujoma elected 1st Namibian president

WINDHOEK, Namibia (AP) — Sam Nujoma, leader of the South-West Africa People's Organisation (SWAPO) for 30 years, was elected Namibia's first president Friday in preparation for the territory's independence on March 21.

The 72-member constituent assembly unanimously elected Nujoma, who helped found SWAPO in 1960 and led it through a 23-year bush war against South African rule of Namibia, formerly called South-West Africa.

"On behalf of the Namibian people and myself I want to express my sincere appreciation for the trust and honour you have bestowed upon me," Nujoma told the assembly. "I will execute my duties in conformity to the letter and the spirit of the constitution."

Southern Africa also cite a lack of housing for most of the 16,000 families of Soviet soldiers and civilian workers based in Czechoslovakia, Simek said.

A preliminary agreement indicates about 35 per cent of the soldiers will be withdrawn by the end of May, along with 40 per cent of the tanks, 30 per cent of other combat vehicles and nearly one-third of helicopters and artillery, he said.

The diplomats said the meeting of the 12 EC leaders would probably be more substantial than their special "Saturday night summit" in Paris last November, when they reviewed the changes sweeping Eastern Europe, in talks over dinner.

European Commission President Jacques Delors, who also attends such summits, was the first to speak publicly about the idea this week although Irish officials had already been considering calling the special meeting.

EC foreign ministers are already scheduled to hold a regular meeting in Luxembourg on April 2 and the diplomats said that session could be used to prepare a summit a week or so later.

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SWAPO won 41 assembly seats in elections last November and six other parties captured the remaining 31 spots.

Despite a hard-fought election and sharp ideological differences, the parties quickly worked out a democratic, Western-style constitution that has won virtually unanimous support. Also, Nujoma has named whites, businessmen and opposition party members to his cabinet in a bid to heal the deep divisions caused by the long war.

Nujoma, 60, has little formal education, but is considered a shrewd, instinctive politician who has maintained the leadership of his organisation despite several challenges over the years.

In-fighting was a major cause of the opposition coalition's defeat in the last election, in 1987. Liberal leader John Howard was deposed in May, 1989, by Andrew Peacock, who headed the party unsuccessfully into the 1984 election.

But the Liberal Party is still struggling to project itself as united while Peacock, who sacked a senior cabinet member Wednesday for discussing the possibility of election defeat, is seen by voters as lacking credibility and charisma.

"The essential question is whether we will continue together towards the achievement of a fair society, an increasingly efficient and competitive Australian economy and all that within a healthy environment.

"Or whether we're going to turn the clock back to what were, without question, the days of entrenched privilege, of lost opportunities and of environmental degradation."

Hawke, already Labour's longest-serving prime minister, had to call an election by May 12, the end of his three-year term.

Analysts say he was persuaded to move early because of continued dissension in opposition ranks and signs that record home-

over the past seven years when casting their ballots.

"I'm not in any sense complacent or cocky about this campaign... it's going to be a tight campaign and we're going to have to try hard, work hard," he said. "I think the conditions are possibly there for an improvement in our majority."

"There is a truth of Australian politics which has been reflected over a long period of time that if you can't govern yourselves, you can't govern the country," he said.

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